



Brownfields 2017 Job Training Grant Fact Sheet

Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board, Lawrence, MA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant funds are provided to nonprofit organizations and other eligible entities to recruit, train, and place residents from solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities, including low-income and minority, unemployed, and underemployed individuals. To date, EPA has funded 274 job training grants totaling over \$57 million through the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program. As of May 2017, more than 16,300 individuals have completed training, and of those, almost 12,000 have obtained employment in the environmental field, an average starting wage of over \$14 an hour. This equates to a cumulative placement rate of approximately 73% since the program was created in 1998.

Job Training Grant

\$200,000.00

EPA has selected the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board for an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant. The Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board plans to train 28 students and place at least 22 graduates in environmental jobs. The core training program includes 170 hours of instruction in 40-hour HAZWOPER, OSHA 10-hour construction safety, commercial driver's license (CDL)-class B, CDL air brakes, CDL hazardous materials transport, CDL tanker truck operation, CDL hoisting and endorsement testing, and backhoe/front end loader operation. Participants also will get credit for an additional 38 hours for attending an environmental careers fair, touring a wastewater treatment plant and the Department of Physical Works facility, learning job site vocabulary and job seeking and resiliency skills, getting physical exams, and undergoing drug testing. Participants who complete the training program can earn one state and six federal certifications. The Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board is targeting low-income and minority residents of Lawrence. Key partners include Centro de Apoyo Familiar, EnviroVantage, Groundwork Lawrence, Lawrence Community Works, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, National Response Corporation, Teamsters Local Union Number 25, TRC Environmental Solutions, Triumvirate Environmental, and ValleyWorks Career Center.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team
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EPA Region 1 Brownfields Web site
(<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-connecticut-maine-massachusetts-new-hampshire-rhode#pane-1>)

Grant Recipient: Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board, MA
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The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.